

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-10 IO-10

OES-03 H-02 L-03 OFA-01 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 SMI-01

TAR-01 AGR-05 INT-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1146

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EFIS, DA, GL, FO

SUBJECT: DATA ON FIRMS ENGAGED IN WHALING

REF: STATE 158361

1. THERE ARE NO FIRMS IN DENMARK ENGAGED IN COMMERCIAL WHALING. IN DENMARK, WHALES ARE TAKEN BY GREENLAND AND FAEROESE FISHERMEN.

2. IN GREENLAND, THERE ARE NO LAND STATIONS NOR ANY FIRMS ENGAGED IN WHALING. ALTHOUGH WHALES ARE STILL TAKEN IN THE TRADITIONAL MANNER, THEY ARE TAKEN PRIMARILY IN CONNECTION WITH THE FISHERY FOR SHRIMP. MANY VESSELS CARRY HARPOON GUNS AND DIVERT THEIR ACTIVITY FROM SHRIMPING IF A WHALE IS SIGHTED NEARBY. WHALES ARE PRIMARILY UTILIZED FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION. WHEN A WHALE IS TAKEN NEAR ONE OF THE SMALL VILLAGES, THE ANIMAL IS DIVIDED AMONG THE VILLAGERS ACCORDING TO CUSTOM. WHALE MEAT IS ALSO PURCHASED AT SEVERAL DEPOTS OF THE ROYAL GREENLAND TRADE DEPARTMENT. ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY

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INFORMATION, THE RGTD BOUGHT ABOUT 80 METRIC TONS OF

WHALE MEAT IN 1974, THE MAIN PART OF WHICH WAS SOLD THROUGH RGTD OUTLETS IN THE LARGER TOWNS IN GREENLAND; THE REMAINDER WAS SOLD IN DENMARK. A CONSIDERABLY LESSER QUANTITY WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN PURCHASED BY SEVERAL PRIVATE FISH BUYERS IN GREENLAND. THE TOTAL GREENLAND WHALE CATCH IN 1974 WAS 9 HUMPBACK, 3 FIN, 169 MINKE, 163 NARWHALE, 614 BELUGA AND 14 PILOT. THE INFORMATION WAS GIVEN BY OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY FOR GREENLAND AND OF THE ROYAL GREENLAND TRADE DEPARTMENT.

3. IN THE FAEROE ISLAND, WHALING REFERS TO A TRADITIONAL PRACTICE DATING BACK MANY CENTURIES. THE ANNUAL MIGRATION OF PILOT WHALES TAKES THEM TO WATERS NEAR THE ISLANDS. WHEN THE WHALES ENTER THE FJORDS, THE LOCAL INHABITANTS HARVEST THEM AND USE THEM FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION. THERE ARE NO LAND STATIONS NOR VESSELS EXCLUSIVELY EQUIPPED FOR WHALING. THERE WERE 671 PILOT WHALES AND 4 OTHER WHALES TAKEN IN 1974. THE ABOVE INFORMATION WAS SUPPLIED BY OFFICIALS OF THE DANISH MINISTRY OF FISHERIES.
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